

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN AUGUST 1999

Natural soda ash production in August was 803,000 metric tons, 12% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 292,000 tons, 7% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in August was 1.18 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in July was 625,000 tons,

24% higher than the July 1998 level of 506,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in July 1999 were 282,000 tons and 7,750 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through July 1999, compared with those of the corresponding period in 1998, were as follows: production slightly higher, imports 4% higher, exports 16% lower, ending stocks 4% higher, and apparent consumption 10% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1998:			
July	842	302	1,370
August	833	332	1,300
September	849	288	1,070
October	831	322	1,320
November	858	311	1,390
December	840	273	1,430
Total (January-August)	6,770	XX	11,300
Year total	10,100	XX	16,500
1999:			
January	835	296	1,490
February	749	320	1,230
March	877	297	1,480
April	833	272	1,320
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,100
July	911	315	1,140
August	803	292	1,180
Total	6,750	XX	10,400

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1999 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN JULY 1999 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	50,600	\$5,590	\$110
Japan	35,500	4,390	124
Indonesia	23,000	2,840	124
Argentina	22,000	3,030	138
Korea, Republic of	19,500	2,610	134
South Africa	18,900	2,470	131
Belgium	17,500	2,280	130
Canada	16,500	1,280	77
Thailand	15,200	1,930	127
Saudi Arabia	15,000	1,460	97
Other	47,900	5,420	113
Total	282,000	33,300	118

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ August 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1999 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total	% of total
Argentina	2,680	13,800	--	--	14,000	--	22,000	52,500	3
Australia	6,000	--	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	17,000	1
Belgium	--	--	18,100	14,800	12,000	18	17,500	62,400	3
Bolivia	--	150	--	450	--	700	--	1,300	(3/)
Brazil	24,000	21,900	--	12,000	27,800	--	--	85,700	5
Canada	21,200	24,800	24,500	19,100	18,200	20,500	16,500	145,000	8
Chile	--	21,100	--	24,500	--	26,400	--	71,900	4
China	4,500	--	4,500	--	4,700	5,000	--	18,700	1
Colombia	11,000	20,400	--	--	--	--	--	31,300	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	5,000	(3/)
France	--	30,000	15,100	15,400	--	--	--	60,500	3
Germany	--	--	185	--	114	--	--	299	(3/)
Guatemala	65	3,040	82	2,040	82	73	--	5,380	(3/)
Indonesia	16,000	--	20,000	20,500	19,000	16,500	23,000	115,000	6
Jamaica	--	16	16	2,030	--	--	--	2,060	(3/)
Japan	27,500	36,100	10,500	37,900	7,040	41,100	35,500	196,000	11
Korea, Republic of	32,000	3,280	26,400	170	20,700	139	19,500	102,000	6
Malaysia	--	18,100	--	--	17,500	9,500	5,000	50,100	3
Mexico	38,100	37,800	44,700	31,300	53,900	20,800	50,600	277,000	15
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,000	7,000	(3/)
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	3,960	--	3,960	(3/)
Norway	--	--	--	23	--	--	29	52	(3/)
Peru	--	3,100	--	3,450	--	3,620	--	10,200	1
Philippines	--	11,000	--	10,000	8,000	--	8,500	37,500	2
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	14,000	--	15,000	--	15,000	59,000	3
Singapore	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	4,000	7,500	(3/)
South Africa	14,900	--	17,000	--	--	--	18,900	50,700	3
Spain	--	16,200	11,200	33,100	--	--	11,900	72,400	4
Suriname	19	58	19	--	--	--	--	96	(3/)
Taiwan	15,000	23,100	4,300	22,600	--	23,000	5,500	93,400	5
Thailand	13,400	14,000	23,400	21,500	17,300	15,300	15,200	120,000	7
Trinidad and Tobago	--	2,900	--	--	2,830	--	--	5,730	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	6,000	12,000	1
United Kingdom	147	--	20	20	7,020	--	20	7,230	(3/)
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	794	--	--	794	(3/)
Venezuela	18,500	--	--	--	23,100	15,000	--	56,500	3
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	--	4,000	(3/)
Total	260,000	301,000	248,000	276,000	275,000	206,000	282,000	1,850,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ August 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1998:		
July	7,450	\$955
August	7,350	938
September	8,050	1,030
October	6,260	824
November	6,870	906
December	6,550	827
Total (January-July)	47,800	6,280
Year total	82,900	10,800
1999: 3/		
January	3,910	512
February	6,620	762
March	8,810	1,030
April	7,990	924
May	6,600	761
June	7,960	980
July	7,750	939
Total	49,600	5,910

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ August 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1998:						
July	842,000	7,450	360,000	--	16,300	506,000
August	833,000	7,350	222,000	30,100	--	588,000
September	849,000	8,050	347,000	--	43,900	554,000
October	831,000	6,260	244,000	33,200	--	560,000
November	858,000	6,870	336,000	--	10,400	540,000
December	840,000	6,550	307,000	--	37,900	578,000
Total (January-July)	5,940,000	47,800	2,200,000	43,400	--	3,740,000
Year total	10,100,000	82,900	3,660,000	14,500	--	6,550,000
1999:						
January	835,000	3,910	260,000	22,900	--	556,000
February	749,000	6,620	301,000	23,400	--	432,000
March	877,000	8,810	248,000	--	23,200	661,000
April	833,000	7,990	276,000	--	24,500	590,000
May	886,000	6,600	275,000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	7,960	206,000	--	67,800	729,000
July	911,000	7,750	282,000	11,700	--	625,000
August	803,000	NA	NA	--	22,700	NA
Total (January-July)	5,950,000	49,600	1,850,000	41,600	--	4,110,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.